

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-32 are currently pending in the application. Claim 26 is withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1-18 and 20-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19 and 30 have been amended. Upon entry the amendments, claims 19 and 30-32 would be pending. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment are requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claims 1-5, 22-25, 27 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tejima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,413, hereinafter Tejima). Claims 6-17, 21 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tejima as applied to claims 1-5, 22-25, 27 and 30-32, and further in view of Sasaki (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035232, hereinafter "Sasaki"). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tejima in view of Sasaki as applied to claims 6-17, 21 and 28, and further in view of Willson (U.S. Patent No. 6,765,544, hereinafter Willson). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tejima as applied to claims 1-5, 22-25, 27 and 30-32, and further in view of Sunaga (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0008853, hereinafter Sunaga).

Claims 1-18 and 21-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering these rejections moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 19 has been amended in general to place the claim in independent form, which is believed to be allowable. Dependent claim 30 has been amended to depend from claim 19. Accordingly, claims 19 and 30-32 and the application are believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

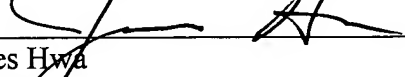
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5342

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5342

Respectfully submitted,
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